(ग) क्या इसमें अगस्त्य मुनि जलागम विकास परियोजना, जिला चमोली की 7.95 करोड़ रुपए की योजना भी शामिल है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इन्हें कब तक स्वीकृत किए जाने की संभावना है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम पाल): (क) से (घ) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने विदेशी सहायता हेतु चार प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किए हैं यथा (1) कुचगाड तथा उत्तरी कोशी एकीकृत पनधारा प्रबंध परियोजना; (2) बेनलगाड एकीकृत पनधारा प्रबंध परियोजना; (3) पनधारा प्रबंध के माध्यम से उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों की पारिस्थितिकी का पुनः स्थापन और विकास; तथा (4) अगस्त्य मुनि एकीकृत पनधारा प्रबंध परियोजना।

उपर्युक्त चार परियोजना प्रस्तावों में से, क्रम संख्या (1), (2) और (3) पर उल्लिखित प्रस्ताव विदेशी सहायता हेतु क्रमशः यूरोपीय कमीशन के प्रतिनिधि मंडल, रायल नीदरलैंड दूतावास तथा विश्व बैंक के समक्ष रखे गए हैं; और क्रम संख्या (4) पर दिए गए प्रस्ताव में राज्य द्वारा सुधार किया जा रहा है।

दक्षिण भागीरथी चरण-3 पनधारा विकास परियोजना प्रस्ताव के अन्तर्गत प्रस्तावित क्षेत्र का विकास कार्य यूरोपीय आर्थिक समुदाय की सहायता प्राप्त चल रही टून घाटी पनधारा विकास परियोजना के अन्तर्गत किया जा रहा है।

State Farms Corporation of India

3222. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the chairman, State Farms Corporation of India is still continuing despite the fact that he was superannuated on February 28, 1998 and if so, under whose orders he has been continuing; and

(b) whether it is a fact that his services were also terminated by Government and if so, on what grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Threat by Genetically Engineered Seeds

3223. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of genetically engineered seeds containing the newly Patented Terminator gene-jointly developed by U.S. Agriculture Department and Delta and Pineland, and MNC, that switches off the reproductive cycle of a plant after a generation, as reported in the Observer dated the 17th June, 1998.

(b) whether this suicidal gene would necessitate purchase of new Patented Seeds every season by the poor farmers;

(c) whether this gene could spread to other crops also and play havoc with our food self-sufficiency and food security; and

(d) what measures Government are taking to stop this killer gene from ever invading India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The technology would necessitate purchase of new seeds every year in crops/varieties where it is introduced.

(c) It has been concluded by a number of crop geneticists that there is a likelihood of the pollen carying Terminator trait pollinating the crops in adjoining farmer's fileds. The seeds from such affected plants would again be sterile, thus resulting in poor crop stands, and far more importantly, gradual extinction of traditional varieties.

Furthermore, crop related weeds, important for natural evolution of crop species, may be affected. This concern is of special relevance to India since the country is rich in land races and wild relatives of crop plants.

There also has been an opinion that since the seed carries the sterility trait, it is less likely that transgenic material will